

ABSTRACT

A surgical cable system for fixing bones in a spatial relationship is composed of a multistrand cable having improved flexibility with a fastener on one end and a free end. The fastener has an aperture through which the free end of the cable is inserted after being looped around the bones. The fastener has a stop in the aperture to crimp the cable to permanently fix the loop in the desired position. The tension on the cable is set using a provisional fastener and a tensioner instrument. The provisional fastener serves to separate the permanent fastener from the tensioner and align the cable to reduce friction and slack for more precise control of the tension and the size of the loop. The tensioner has a fixed length shaft providing small precise adjustments in the cable.